







Central (Richmond)

Northern (Manassas)

Eastern (Norfolk)

Western (Roanoke)

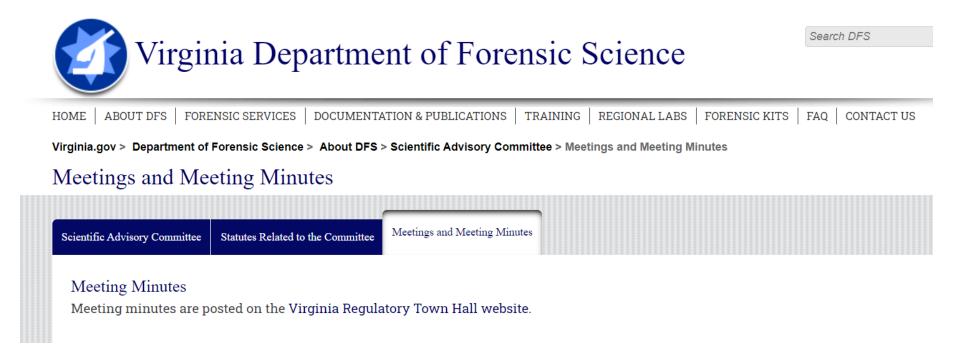
DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director Presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee October 14, 2020





Meeting Materials



https://www.dfs.virginia.gov/about-dfs/scientific-advisory-committee/meetings-and-meeting-minutes/

Department of Labor and Industry Temporary Regulations



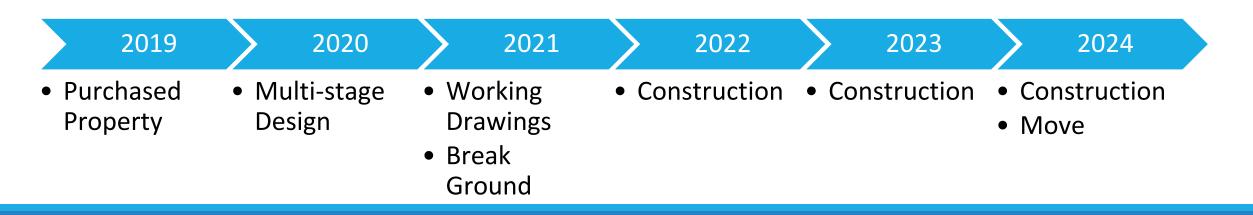
 16VAC25-220 - Emergency Temporary Standard Infectious Disease Prevention: SARS-CoV-2 Virus That Causes COVID-19

 DFS met all associated deadlines for required policies, procedures, plans and trainings



Central Laboratory Capital Project

- Conceptual design phase completed February 2020
- Schematic design phase completed September 2020
- Preliminary design phase in progress
 - Preliminary drawings to be submitted to DEB January 1, 2021
 - Once comments from DEB adjudicated, final budget will be determined



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Building Renderings (not final)



SFCS

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OSIG Performance Audit

- Notified of audit on April 9, 2020
- Notified on August 14 that the audit was suspended

 OSIG determined that DFS "would benefit more from a performance audit when OSIG can contract for resources better suited to analyze the technical, scientific processes used by DFS."



Updated Field Test Regulations

Regulations for the Approval of Field Tests for Detection of Drugs effective October 1

REGULATIONS VOL. 37 ISS. 1 - AUGUST 31, 2020

TITLE 6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

Chapter 30

Final Regulation

<u>Title of Regulation:</u> 6VAC40-30. Regulations for the Approval of Field Tests for Detection of Drugs (amending 6VAC40-30-10, 6VAC40-30-30, 6VAC40-30-40, 6VAC40-30-50, 6VAC40-30-70, 6VAC40-30-80).

Statutory Authority: § 9.1-1110 of the Code of Virginia.

Effective Date: October 1, 2020.

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lete

District Attorney's Office – New York (DANY)

- 1,798 kits tested by outsource laboratory
- 98 Virginia law enforcement agencies
- 568 cases included profiles uploaded and searched in the DNA Data Bank
- 243 Data Bank hits reported (as of 9/30/20)
- All reviews completed February 2019

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)

- 894 kits tested by outsource laboratory
- 78 Virginia law enforcement agencies
- 337 cases included profiles uploaded and searched in the DNA Data Bank
- 148 Data Bank hits reported (as of 9/30/20)
- All reviews completed September 29, 2020

Employee Recognition



- Thanks to the 35 examiners that worked over 2,800 hours of overtime to complete these two projects!
- Thanks to Forensic Biology
 Group Supervisor Theresa
 Francis for coordinating both
 projects!



Budget and Resources - COVID

- Hiring Freeze
 - Exemptions for positions directly related to public safety
- Pledged Savings for FY20

Total Savings to Pledge	\$300,000
Reduced travel and training expenses	\$45,000
Delay of replacing video equipment	\$80,000
Personnel cost savings from vacant positions	\$75,000
Savings from stopping case outsourcing in April	\$100,000



Biennial FY21/FY22 Budget

	FY21	FY22	MEL*
General Fund	\$53,039,134	\$53,220,854	328
Non-general Fund	\$2,414,280	\$2,358,980	3
Total	\$55,453,414	\$55,579,834	331

^{*}Maximum Employment Level



COVID-19 Funding

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act - \$34,374

- Funds became available for use on June 22, 2020
- Paid out \$31,745 of approved expenses in FY20
- Requesting remaining \$2,629 to be carried over to FY21 for remaining expenses

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) - \$26,334

- Received grant funding through DCJS
- Grant funding period is retroactive to 1/20/20 through 9/30/21
- For continuity of operations projects for Breath Alcohol and Forensic Training Sections



New Budget Items

Fund DNA Research postdoctoral grant position

- FY21 \$125,000 / FY22 \$70,000
- Authorization to spend non-general funds and for 1 FTE

Fund two IT positions — *Unallocated in Governor's Budget, Removed from House and Senate Budgets*

- FY21 \$185,160 / FY22 \$246,880
- 2 FTE

Fund increased maintenance cost of lab equipment – *Unallocated in Governor's Budget, Removed from House and Senate Budgets*

FY21 \$248,000 / FY22 \$368,000

Grants

Current Grants	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
FY18 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Grant	\$1,297,996	\$0	1/1/19 – 12/31/20
FY18 NIJ Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories – Toxicology Research	\$448,063	\$0	1/1/19 – 12/31/20
FY18 NIJ Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories – Fire Debris Research	\$176,490	\$0	1/1/19 – 12/31/20
CDC Opioid Joint Project (OCME and DFS) – 2020 Continuation - Overdose Data to Action Project	\$164,807	\$0	9/1/20 – 8/31/21

Current Grants	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
FY19 NIJ Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Labs (DNA Research)	\$250,636	\$0	1/1/20 – 12/31/21
FY19 NIJ Forensic DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Grant	\$1,656,427	\$0	1/1/20 – 12/31/21
FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement	\$487,591 (DFS Portion = \$243,795)	\$0	1/1/20 – 12/31/20
FY21 DMV Highway Safety Grant Program	\$264,510 (Federal)	\$66,128 (In-Kind)	10/1/20 – 9/30/21
FY21 DMV Highway Safety TREDS Project	\$84,290	\$0	10/1/20 – 9/30/21

Current Grants	Federal Amount I	OFS Match	Dates
2019 NIJ Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) - Sub- recipient of OAG	\$75,000	\$0	10/1/19 – 9/30/22
Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) - through DCJS	\$26,334	\$0	Retroactive to January 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021
JAG Funding from DCJS via MOU – to fund part-time Forensic Trainer position for an additional year	\$45,407	\$0	10/1/20 - 9/30/21

Status Pending

Grant Program	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
FY20 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program Grant - Formula	\$225,923	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
BJA FY20 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program	\$1,588,369	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
FY20 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program Grant - Competitive - to hire a Forensic Toxicologist Trainee position to increase capacity in the Toxicology Section.	\$205,725	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
FY20 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) - through OAG - for conducting technical reviews and CODIS upload of eligible DNA profiles resulting from sexual assault kit (SAK) testing, conducting familial searches in 20 cases, and continued employment of the full-time Tracking System Coordinator position - this position will assist with the required inventory of partially-tested kits.	\$340,619	\$0	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2023

Status Pending

Grant Program	Federal Amount	DFS Match	Dates
National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY20 Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories Toxicology Research - to conduct toxicology research related to testing of cannabinoids in biological matrices. Funding will be utilized for a forensic laboratory specialist position, supplies, reference materials and reagents, and travel to a professional meeting to disseminate research findings.	\$290,353	\$0	1/1/21 - 12/31/22
NIJ FY20 Research and Evaluation Firearms/Toolmarks Research - to conduct research designed to assist forensic laboratories in making informed policy decisions regarding blind verifications in the Firearms & Toolmarks discipline. Funding will be used to purchase three High Capacity Imaging and Analysis Systems and to cover travel costs to professional meetings to disseminate research findings.	\$484,987	\$0	1/1/21 - 12/31/22



Workload Statistics - 2019 to 2020

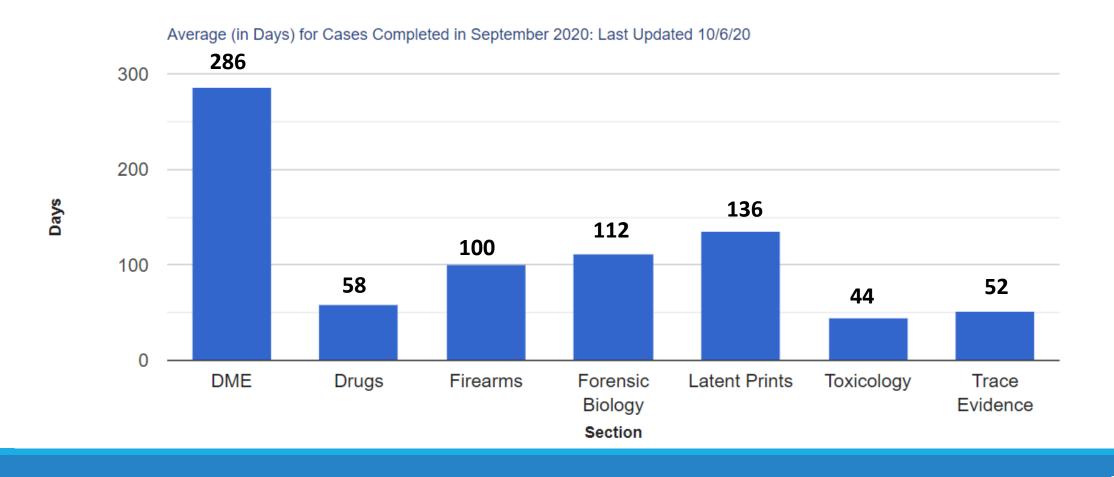
Q3 2020	Submissions		
	2020	2019	% change
DME	35	49	-29%
Controlled Substances	7,089	9,163	-23%
Firearms & Toolmarks	2,074	1,783	+16%
Forensic Biology	1,595	1,481	+8%
Latent Prints & Impressions	596	789	-24%
Toxicology	3,085	2,526	+22%
Trace Evidence	189	178	+6%
TOTAL	14,663	15,969	-8%

Q3 2020	Backlog (end of September)		
	2020	2019	% change
DME	71	195	-64%
Controlled Substances	4,263	12,323	-65%
Firearms & Toolmarks	2,240	1,444	55%
Forensic Biology	1,673	1,805	-7%
Latent Prints & Impressions	789	667	18%
Toxicology	1,380	1,100	25%
Trace Evidence	112	97	15%
TOTAL	10,528	17,631	-40%

NOTE:
Many
factors
affect the
changes to
backlogs.



September 2020 Turnaround Times

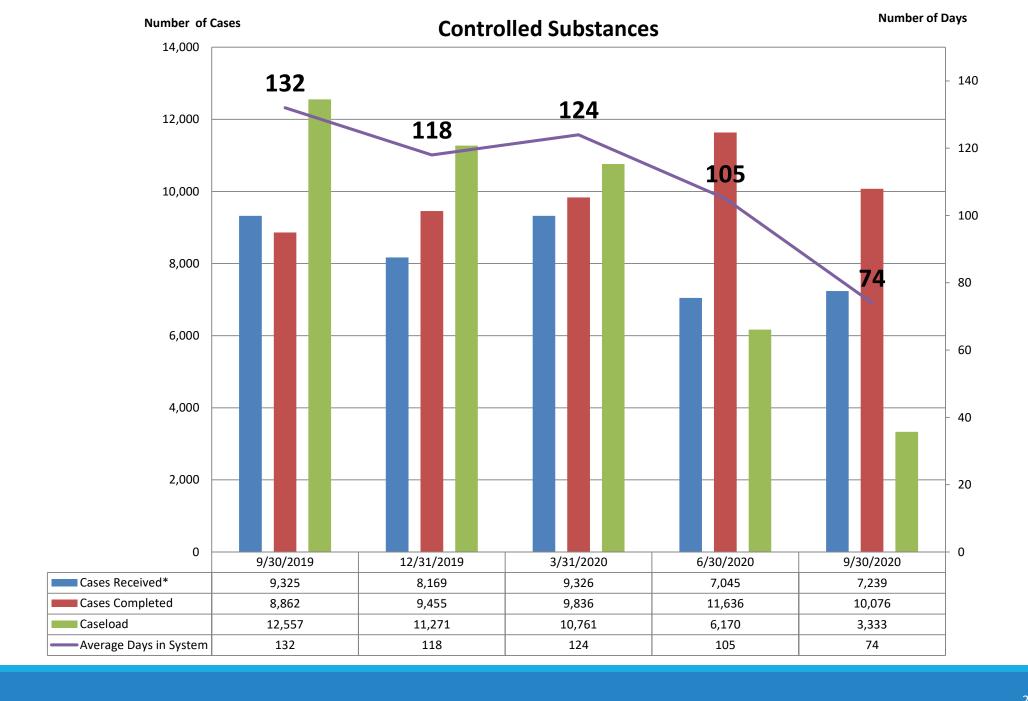


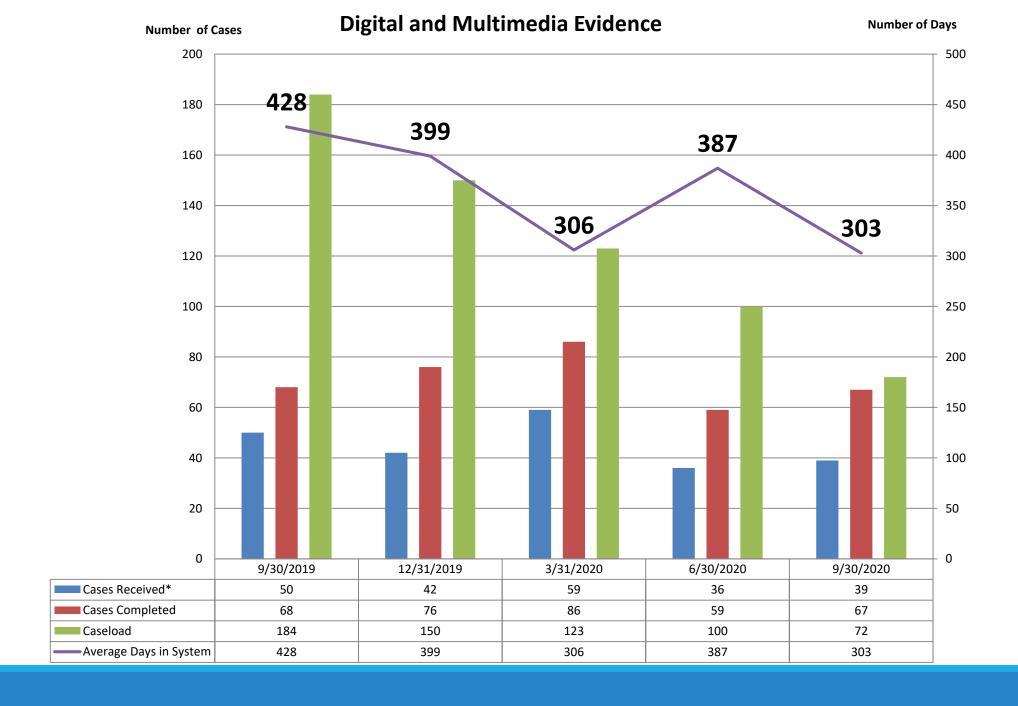


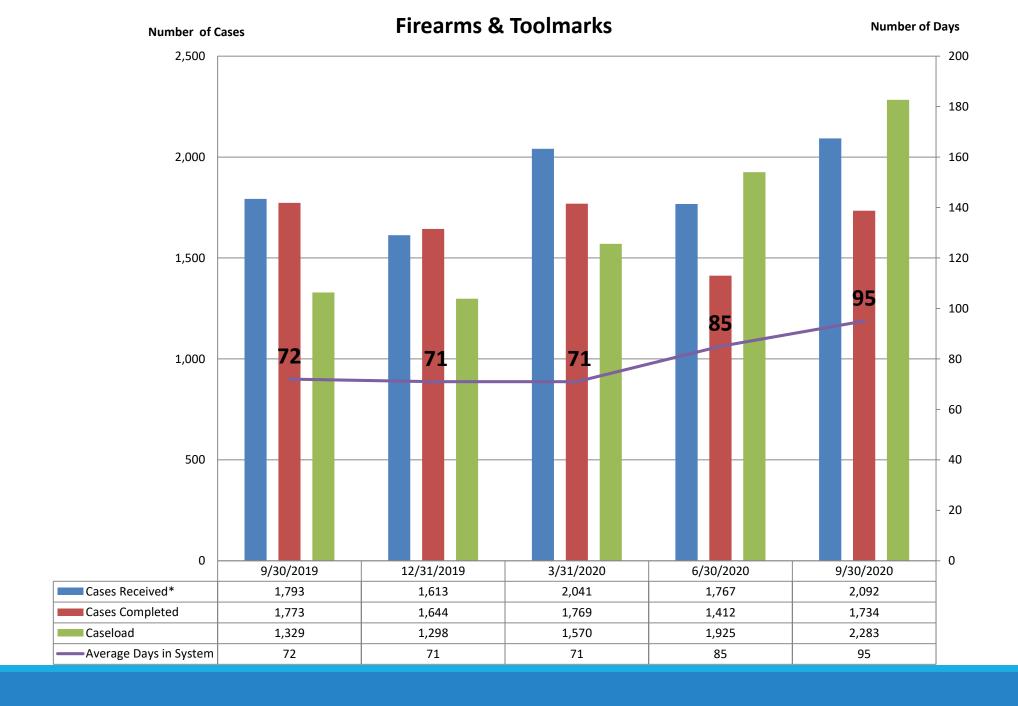
Workload / Backlog Updates

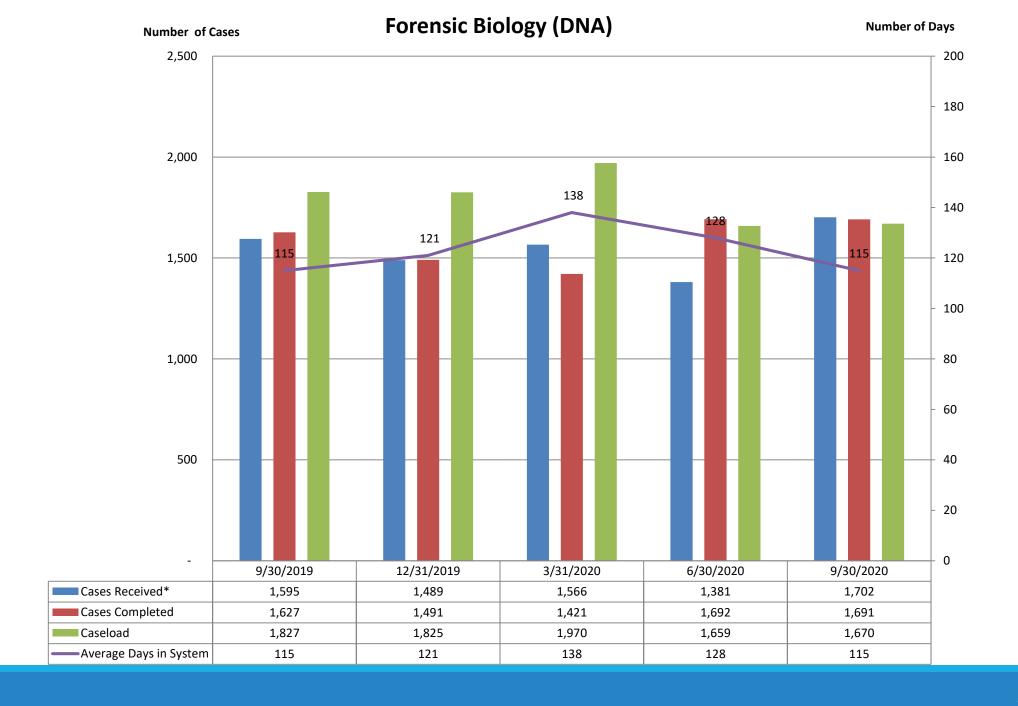
Case Statistics Terminology

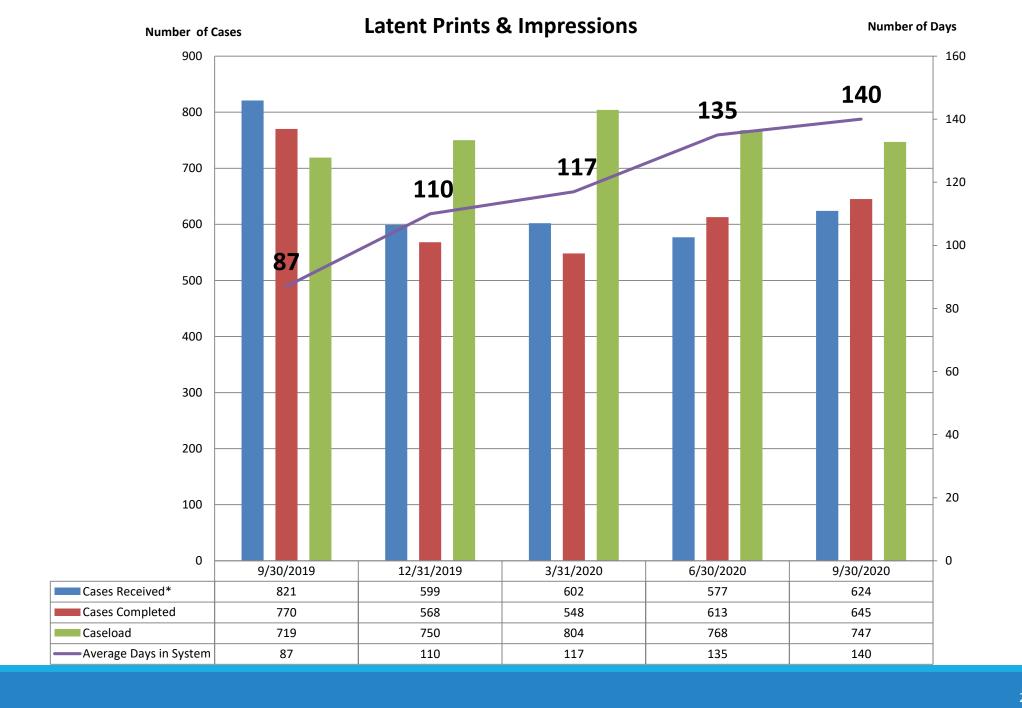
- > Received Total cases received or created in the Quarter
- ➤ Completed Total cases completed in the Quarter
- ➤ Caseload Case backlog at the end of the Quarter

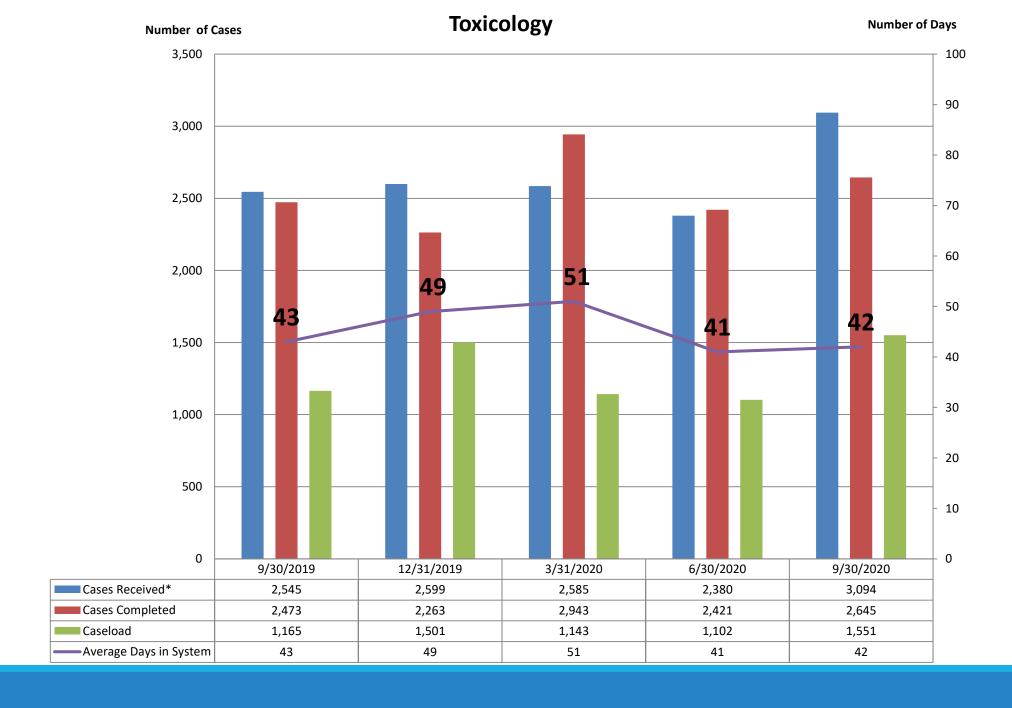
















Thank you!